



Navigating the Road Ahead: Indigenous Collaborative Programming

Land Acknowledgement:

We respectfully acknowledge that the 4Directions of Conversation Consulting Inc. is located within the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa First Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.

Authorship:

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Gary loves to connect and educate people through nature. He believes that if individuals, especially youth, can form a connection with nature, then all people can make conscious decisions on how we impact Mother Earth and the next seven generations. Gary enjoys spending much of his free time educating youth about “All Our Relations,” with his most favourite students being his two children.

Report Context:

This report was produced by 4Directions of Conversation Consulting Inc. as part of the project led by the Kawartha World Issues Centre (KWIC) and GreenUP called, Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals in Nogojiwanong/Peterborough and the Kawartha Area. The objectives of this project are to raise awareness of and support for the 2030 Agenda, develop diverse partnerships within and across sectors in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, ensure that progress toward the 2030 Agenda leaves no one behind, and integrate Indigenous knowledge and leadership into local approaches and efforts.

KWIC, in partnership with GreenUP, held the year-long project beginning in March 2020. Five Priority Action Teams were established in relation to priorities identified at the March 2019 Community Forum called Understanding the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Canada’s Commitment and the Local Connections. Four of the teams focused on specific SDGs: No Poverty (SDG 1), Quality Education (SDG 4), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), and Climate Action (SDG 13). The fifth group, called the Indigenous Leadership Action Team (ILAT), guided and supported the work of the other four teams. The work of this project was presented in February at the 2021 SDG Community Forum: Centering Indigenous Knowledge and Diverse Perspectives to Advance the 2030 Agenda in Nogojiwanong/Peterborough and the Kawartha Area.

Miigwetch, Thank You to the Project Funder:

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INDIGENOUS COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMING

We are all treaty people, and as such, we all have a role to play in upholding these treaties.

To honour treaties is to honour the relationships that have come before us and the ones yet to come.

As we strive towards reconciliation, it is more important than ever to acknowledge that any project, regardless of size or intent may inadvertently bring harm to Indigenous communities and violate their rights. It is through the relationship building process that we can diminish barriers and work at responsibly achieving our environmental goals together.

WHAT DOES AN INDIGENOUS COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

Indigenous peoples have unique and complex relationships with land that extends beyond using land for their personal or community needs or as their life-support system. Indigenous relationships with land include cultural, spiritual, economic, stewardship, kinship, governance and rights-based aspects. Ensuring that these relationships can continue is critical to the future and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples. Any collaborative process that is undertaken will result in decisions that need to incorporate Indigenous perspectives and knowledge systems. Without this understanding, there can be no meaningful collaborations or relationships with any Indigenous community.

Prior to collaborating with Indigenous communities, project teams need to engage in personal and organizational reflection. This reflection is to help identify barriers or challenges that could hinder the relationship development process, as well as identify what is required to move forward in a good way.

Typically, collaborators need to have a clear understanding of:

1. The Indigenous Reconciliation Process (Including the **TRC's Calls to Action**);
2. The Indigenous communities which they would like to build a relationship with;
3. Internal challenges of good relationship building or collaboration, such as past biases towards the Indigenous community, poor working relationships, and/or grievances;
4. External factors that make good collaboration difficult, such as seasonality of projects that could interfere with the Indigenous community's harvesting or social practices;
5. Knowledge systems and problematic outcomes. For example, being mindful that prioritizing Western or Eurocentric forms of governance, such as Robert's Rules of Order, over Indigenous protocols could create challenges to meaningful collaboration;
6. Benefits to the local Indigenous communities; and
7. Reasons why you are collaborating and/or the duration of the collaboration.

GUIDING OBJECTIVES OF AN INDIGENOUS COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM (ICP)

The opportunity for Indigenous communities to voice their interest in a project necessitates the development and implementation of a comprehensive Indigenous Collaborative Program (ICP). This ensures that Indigenous communities are fully informed and that community knowledge and concerns are fully accounted for in the project impacts and outcomes. The overarching objectives of an ICP are:

- To identify interested Indigenous communities, interest parties and stakeholders;
- To begin the relationship building and exchange with an understanding of a co-governance ideology;
- To learn the cultural significance and importance of the lands, project concepts and structures to the surrounding Indigenous groups through a variety of traditional and contemporary information exchange opportunities throughout the project milestones;
- To inform identified Indigenous stakeholders of the approach and objectives for the proposed project; and
- To obtain comments, reviews and consent from identified Indigenous stakeholders to allow the assessment of potential impacts of particular importance to the Indigenous Rights, Interests and Stakeholders.

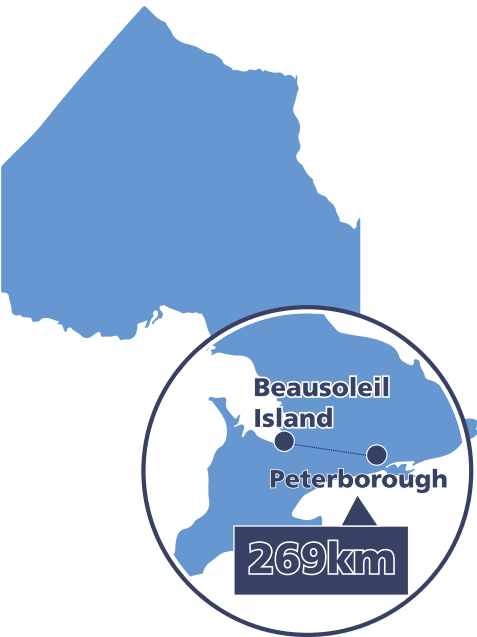
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND RIGHTS IDENTIFICATION

Strategies for consulting with First Nations are as varied as the histories, cultures, traditions and worldviews of the over 630 First Nation communities situated within Canada. There is not a "one size fits all" template because each community requires different engagement processes. Some communities will have their own policies or templates for engagement or consultation, and each provincial and territorial jurisdiction has its own regulations. A good general rule follows a guiding principle,

"If a project or program touches upon or could impact a treaty or traditional territory, then those Indigenous communities require notification and engagement."

Once communities are identified, project organizers may need to undertake engagement with up to three types of Indigenous communities or stakeholder groups:

- Rights Holders or Treaty Rights Holders (signatories to a treaty)
- Indigenous Interest Holders (possible historical presence but not signatory to a treaty)
- Indigenous Stakeholder Groups (urban population, organizations or resource groups)



PRINCIPLES OF INDIGENOUS COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMING

While there are different approaches for individual, community and stakeholder levels of collaboration, the following principles have been identified as fundamental for the successful development of Indigenous participation:

Respect

There must be an understanding that traditional knowledge, laws and beliefs are based on thousands of years of empirical experience on the lands by Indigenous peoples. Without this depth of traditional knowledge, Indigenous peoples would not have created a thriving society and culture in these lands. Respect for the traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples and their diversity is an integral part of the collaboration process.

Protocols

Indigenous communities have their own traditional cultural and social practices, which include laws and governance protocols. They are usually delivered orally. Indigenous laws have been in place for generations and cannot be diminished by treaties. Project teams should strive to work with communities to understand and adhere to their preferred methods of engagement respecting both written and oral cultural protocols when identified.

Commitment

Commitment is important for sustaining long-term, effective partnerships and relationships with Indigenous peoples and groups. Collaborators should commit to developing plans and programs with Indigenous communities and continuing to build on the partnership and relationship after a project is completed: i.e. trusts, endowment funds, scholarships, project revenues.

Defining Meaningful Relationships

Collaboration with Indigenous peoples and groups early in the planning and design phases of a proposed project can benefit everyone. There have been instances where failure to participate in a process of early collaboration with Indigenous peoples has led to project failures, weak partnerships and diminished relationships.

Creating space and time for meaningful relationships leads to the following impacts:

- Enhancing all participants' relationships;
- Promoting trust;
- Improving the understanding by Indigenous groups of the proposed project and objectives;
- Assisting the project team in understanding the interests and concerns of those living in the affected area.

With this understanding and information, the project team can begin to discuss practical strategies for maximizing the project's potential for positive impacts, while eliminating or mitigating possible negative consequences.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES WITHIN THIS REGION

There is no single correct way to do treaty research, but once one has become acquainted with the principal terms and sources of treaty documents, it becomes a relatively simple matter to locate the text of a treaty. It can be a bit more difficult to discover the status of a particular treaty. In addition, it can be quite a challenge to find information about the negotiation or legislative history of a treaty.

Popular internet resources may be inaccurate or misleading if they did not come from within the communities themselves. It is strongly recommended that you find resources from the local First Nations communities within the project area, then contact the local First Nation community, and go from there. Please remember, through the enforcement of the Indian Act and the relocation of several Indigenous communities, not all communities are within their historical territory.

Historically, the Peterborough area was known to be home to only the Treaty 20 First Nations. The following communities are the signatories of Treaty 20:

- Curve Lake First Nation
- Hiawatha First Nation
- Mississauga of Scugog Island First Nation

However, based on the 2018 Williams Treaties Settlement Agreement, all Williams Treaty First Nations have the right to be engaged. Therefore, the following communities should also be engaged in the spirit of the collaboration process:

- Alderville First Nation
- Beausoleil First Nation
- Chippewas of Georgian Island First Nation
- Chippewas of Rama First Nation

APPENDIX A: INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY CONTACT LIST

Ideally, projects should be developed with Indigenous communities for their input in the project design stage to enable meaningful partnership and participation. Table 1 is a list of community contacts to reach out to in our area.

Table 1: Leadership and Consultation Contacts (As of January 2021)

| Community | Leadership | Consultation Team |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Alderville First Nation 11696 Line, RR #2 Roseneath, ON K0K 2X0 | Chief Dave Mowat | Dave Simpson |
| Beausoleil First Nation 11 O’Gemaa Miikaan Christian Is., ON L9M 0A9 | Chief Guy Monague | Dana Monague |
| Chippewas of Georgina Island R.R. #2, Box N-13 Sutton W., ON L0E 1R0 | Chief Donna Big Canoe | Natasha Charles |
| Chippewas of Rama First Nation 5884 Rama Rd. Suite 200 Rama, ON L3V 6H6 | Chief Ted Williams | Sharday James |
| Curve Lake First Nation 22 Wiinookeeda Rd. Curve Lake, ON K0L 1R0 | Chief Emily Whetung | Dr. Julie Kapryka and Kaitlin Hill |
| Hiawatha First Nation 123 Paudash St. Hiawatha, ON K9J 0E6 | Chief Laurie Carr | Tom Cowie and Sean Davison |
| Scugog Island First Nation 22521 Island Rd. Port Perry, ON L9L 1B6 | Chief Kelly Larocca | Michael Thoms |

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Indigenous Community Contact List
- Appendix B: Community Profiles
- Appendix C: Project Notification Strategy
- Appendix D: Community Events and Meetings
- Appendix E: Collaboration under restriction or pandemic circumstances

APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY PROFILES

Williams Treaty Community Profiles

There are more than 630 First Nation communities in Canada, which represent more than 50 distinct Nations and 50 Indigenous languages. The following are community profiles of the communities within the Williams Treaty Area that include the Mississauga and Chippewa Nations.

Mississauga Nation’s Community Profiles

ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION

Alderville First Nation is located in south-central Ontario, on the south side of Rice Lake, and approximately 30 km north of Cobourg. The land base of the community is about 1200 hectares. The First Nation has a total membership of 1,222, with approximately 300 members living on reserve.

CURVE LAKE FIRST NATION

Curve Lake First Nation is located on the mainland peninsula separating Buckhorn and Chemong Lakes, approximately 48 km northeast of Peterborough, Ontario. The territory also consists of a large island (Fox Island) on Buckhorn Lake and co-own smaller islands located throughout the Trent Severn Waterway system. The total land base of the First Nation is approximately 900 hectares. The First Nation also has fee simple ownership of property connected to the reserve in Selwyn Township. Curve Lake’s registered membership is 2,482, of which 1,682 members live off-reserve and approximately 800 members live on-reserve.

HIAWATHA FIRST NATION

Hiawatha First Nation is located approximately 30 km South of Peterborough in Otonabee Township on the north shore of Rice Lake, east of the Otonabee River. The community consists of a land base of approximately 2470 acres and is made up of three tenure areas – primary reserve land, Serpent Mounds Park, and Islands of The Trent. Hiawatha’s membership totals

736 members with approximately 220 members residing on reserve.

MISSISSAUGAS OF SCUGOG ISLAND FIRST NATION

Scugog Island First Nation is located approximately 10 km northeast of Port Perry on Lake Scugog. The land base of the community is about 335 hectares, which includes Islands in The Trent. The total registered membership of Scugog Island First Nation is 242 people, with approximately 48 members living on reserve.

Chippewa Nation’s Community Profiles

BEAUSOLEIL FIRST NATION

Beausoleil First Nation is located on Christian Island within Georgian Bay, which is about a 30-minute drive northwest from the town of Midland and a 1.5-hour drive north from Toronto. The community is accessible by a 20-minute ferry boat ride, scoot, hovercraft, and a seasonal ice road. The community consists of approximately 5540 hectares of land and has a registered population of 2,783 members, with approximately 680 members residing on-reserve.

CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND

Georgina Island First Nation is located along the south shore of Lake Simcoe at the north end of the Region of York geographical area - approximately 40 km east of Barrie and 80 km north of Toronto. The First Nation territory consists of five separate land masses located near the southern shore of Lake Simcoe. This includes three islands: Georgina Island, Snake Island, and Fox Island, as well as two small acreages located at Virginia Beach (ferry access point) and Island Grove on the mainland near Keswick. Georgina and Snake Islands are accessible by only ferry, scoot, and a seasonal ice road. Georgina Island First Nation land occupies an area of 1,444 acres. The community has a total membership of 923 members, of which about 210 members reside on reserve.

CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA FIRST NATION

Rama First Nation is located on the eastern side of Lake Couchiching, just north-east of the City of Orillia, and approximately 1.5 hours north of Toronto, Ontario. The First Nation territory is approximately 2640 acres and consists of multiple parcels of land which are not geographically connected, as well as

multiple islands. The First Nation also owns land in the township of Ramara, which is not considered part of the First Nation. The majority of residences, band-owned buildings, and commercial operations are located in the most southern land parcel, known commonly as the Village of Rama. As of February 2020, the total membership of Rama First Nation was 1984 people with 730 members residing on-reserve.

APPENDIX C: PROJECT NOTIFICATION STRATEGY

Ideally, organizations that are considering a partnership or collaboration will engage with Indigenous communities in the very earliest stages to co-create the project. A collaborative design process that identifies appropriate engagement, resources - including funding and expertise- and timelines can reduce unnecessary burden and stress on communities and support full participation. There may be specific situations or constraints to undertaking an early engagement process with an Indigenous community, for example, quick turnaround on funding opportunities. The following section is a guide to a good collaboration process.

Duty to Consult:

The duty to consult is a statutory, contractual and common law obligation that must be fulfilled by the Crown prior to taking actions or making decisions that may have consequences for the rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Navigating duty to consult is a complex process which varies depending on the nature of a project, which is why many First Nations have Legal Councils. Engagement is required with the Indigenous communities whose traditional territory coincides with the geographic area where the project occurs.

Ultimately, the project team is best positioned to approach Indigenous communities with the details concerning the possible scope and outcomes of the project. The project team should effectively describe the project, identify technical issues, and consider how to adjust the proposal and the scope of work to address issues identified throughout the engagement process to determine if this process will be triggered by the project outcomes.

The following procedural aspects of engagement should be considered when notifying an Indigenous community about a project:

- Provide detailed project information to Indigenous communities to ensure they are reasonably informed as to the nature of the proposed activities and are aware of any potential environmental impacts or outcomes, including the short and long-term plans for the area.
- Arrange meetings, by mutual agreement, with Indigenous communities’ elected officials, or authorized designate(s), to discuss appropriate means of engagement, recognizing community specific requirements.
- Engage with the Indigenous communities to identify and discuss specific potential adverse impacts of the project and on member’s abilities to exercise their rights.

Cont’d on next page.

- Consider the views of the Indigenous communities and, where necessary, work with the communities to ensure they retain their ability” to exercise their rights.
- Document the engagement efforts and include the following in an engagement report:
 - Attempts to contact and steps taken to engage with the Indigenous communities;
 - Community concerns related to specific potential adverse impacts on treaty and Indigenous rights and traditional uses;
 - How the concerns identified were considered and, where appropriate, addressed by the collaborator;
 - Any outstanding issues the collaborator was unable to address and reasons why;
 - Any agreements developed with the communities;
 - Other relevant information related to community discussions; and
 - If requested, participate in follow-up engagements.

APPENDIX D: COMMUNITY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Community engagement session(s) should be conducted after the aforementioned engagement methods have been achieved and when a directive that a meeting is required has been received. By way of invitations to participate, communities who wish to participate and their members will be invited to a suitable venue for an engagement event. When possible, engagement sessions will take place in First Nations communities to increase participation and provide economic growth to local businesses. i.e., local caterers, First Nation tours, Cultural Teachings etc.

The event agenda will include, at a minimum:

- Elder and/or Chief and/or Member of Leadership: Opening Prayer and Welcoming;
- Project Team: Land Acknowledgement and Introduction of Team;
- A plenary presentation to attendees prior to opening up the room to questions or responses;
- Infographics and literature set up in the meeting place before the information session commences;
- Details of project scope and objectives, funding and budget, how the project affects the community, and an outline of the public engagement process leading up to the public information session;

- An opportunity for interested participants to provide their feedback pertaining to the project;
- Sharing of food, networking and culturally relevant programming; and
- Culturally relevant and approved Indigenous closing.

Transportation to and from meetings should be budgeted along with child-based learning options that can be scheduled during the public event to ensure that all community members, including youth, elders and families are able to participate.

It should be noted that these events are not intended to replace direct community meetings or presentations requested via leadership and consultation team communications. Moreover, the results of this information session will be formally reported in a document and distributed to all parties for their review. This report will be provided to ensure that the public meeting is a good, representative reflection of the community’s point of view and is not biased by limited or specific community levels of participation at the session itself. The report will also be used to inform the project team and Indigenous community of the results and what issues were raised at the event.

APPENDIX E: COLLABORATION UNDER RESTRICTION OR PANDEMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

Online engagement, unlike its offline counterpart, offers continuously accessible communication channels. The web is usually available anytime from anywhere, overcoming the limitations of time and distance that may otherwise deter participation in engagement. It also provides stakeholders with a level platform from which to partake in dialogue. This is particularly useful in allowing for anonymity, which may encourage greater stakeholder involvement.

You widen your stakeholder base

Traditional methods of stakeholder engagement can be limiting. There is usually an upper limit to the number of people you can inform or consult, simply due to the expense of sending out paper documents or holding face-to-face sessions and often restricted by the number of people you can fit in a room.

Digital platforms allow you to widen your engagement base. Because information can be shared easily, you can quickly reach more stakeholders than the normal ‘famous few’ who traditionally have become the mainstay of many engagements.

Additionally, allowing stakeholders to contribute online will attract many more people who might feel uncomfortable about speaking at meetings or coming to meet individuals face to face. It’s also much easier to engage with the traditionally hard to reach, including young people, knowledge holders, people with accessibility issues, and those who have busy lives outside the community.

You improve transparency and accountability

If you use an online collaboration platform to engage stakeholders, you have a full audit trail of all activity and can easily publish documents and responses for any audience of stakeholders. An audit trail can also make responses to Freedom of Information requests cheaper and simpler to fulfill – every item of information regarding a project

is kept within one workspace. This, combined with widened participation, increases both transparency and accountability.

You cut travel costs and increase productivity

Face-to-face meetings are helpful for stakeholder engagement, especially when you need to collaborate. The problem is that they can be costly, difficult to arrange and time consuming.

Determine your timeline for engagement

Your online engagement will take a minimum of 11 weeks depending on your organizations processes for technology selection, procurement and establishment, and depending on how many stakeholder submissions you need to analyse.

Allow a minimum of:

- 3 weeks (ideally 4) to develop your strategy and approach, gather requirements, select and configure tools;
- 6 weeks for stakeholder engagement – this needs to be sufficiently long enough so people can be notified and give considered responses;
- 2 weeks for analysis, reporting and closing the feedback loop.

Ensure that you can easily access the data and that it is fully safe and protected. Data reports should include all participant activity with the option of real-time reporting. Ensure the ability of comment tagging and analysis to enable you to categorize by key words or phrases. Your consultation data should be easily exportable.

One of the main purposes of online engagement is that communities and stakeholders can engage at any time and place that is convenient for them. Ensuring that the digital engagement software you choose is compatible on all sorts of devices is essential to making engaging easy and convenient.

Miigwetch | Thank You



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